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carrying the good ship through the storm. I do not know that I need say any more, except to repeat that I have great pleasure in recording the motion that the report and accounts be adopted and passed.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Bellios, seconded by Mr. Shewan, the appointment of Messrs. Keswick, McCannell, and Joseph as directors was confirmed.

This was all the business before the meeting, the Chairman announcing that dividend warrants would be ready on Monday.

A vote of thanks to the directors, manager, and staff, proposed by Mr. Dodwell, and briefly acknowledged by the Chairman, concluded the proceedings.

HONGKONG ON IRISH HOME RULE.

We have just received the result of the ballot taken in this colony on the great question of Irish Home Rule. It is as follows:—

For the Home Rule Bill 159

Against 123

Showing a majority of 36 in favor of the latter, contemptible time-serving of the Marquis of Salisbury (who was a decent sort of chap when he had to work for his living as the Hon. Bob Cecil) and his obsequious lackeys, Balfour and the Bismarckian turncoat Joe Chamberlain.

One hundred and ninety-five votes out of a total British population of about four thousand, can scarcely be accepted as a reliable indication of Hongkong opinion; 159 votes against Home Rule, with only 36 in favor of it, just and proper measure, is not a trustworthy indication of what this colony desires. If our old friends the Irishists had been in the majority here, and numbered one thousand strong, about nine hundred and ninety-nine of them would have registered in favor of that inviolable right which unfeignedly and down-rightly Ireland has, by force of arms, and the equivalent of the once Almighty Dollar, been deprived of for centuries.

But it so happens that there is an English regiment, the gallant Shropshire, stationed here, and even if we took for a moment (imagine that) their votes, we should not have sufficient interest in the question to take the trouble to tramp from the Barracks to the Hongkong Hotel.

Brute force is a feeble agent against power of intellect. Will the promoter of this ballot favor the Hongkong Telegraph with the names of those who respectively voted for and against Home Rule in Ireland? If so, we will publish the list and analyze the right to have anything to say on the question. At present our candid opinion is that there are 159 thick-headed Irish in Hongkong, who only came here because their lack of brains prevented them from earning an honest living elsewhere. At home they were incoherent and illiterate clerks and assistants, earning from a pound to thirty shillings a week; in Hongkong they are distant relations to "Dook," members of the "Princely House" and the "Club," habitually on the "make," and a high racket suburban residents. "Maah" married women in a sort of English that would inevitably lead to their being kicked out of any decent middle-class English household, and disgraced manhood generally. Further, they—but we have said enough; you can never make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

We registered our vote, purely as a matter of principle—Hongkong "dudes" are not troubled with that common-sense for Home Rule, but our honest opinion is that the Irish people are the best judges of the form of Government required for their country, and to them, and them alone, should be left the decision.

MORPHINE VERSUS OPIUM.

THE "TELEGRAPH'S" INVESTIGATIONS.

A carefully-conducted series of house-to-house visits among the morphine diavns, amplified by investigations into the private consumption of the various other narcotics, such as pills, powders, tablets, and liquid preparations, which do not figure so prominently in a mere casual inquiry because their consumption does not necessitate any particular apparatus, such as injections or smoking would need, and such as the poorer class of the colony find it more convenient to get at a public house than to keep for themselves at home—all these matters having been most thoroughly sought out and sifted, a careful investigation shows that the available evidence is all of the same kind. A visit to the diavns at No. 11, Kwai-Wa Lane, for example, is exactly like a visit to No. 2, East Street, which formed the subject of the first article in this series; the information to be got at the two is identical. In East Street is mere repetition, and just the same can be had at the place in New Street, at Shui-Kwan, or in fact almost word for word at any of the diavns. Go into any Chinese house in the Colony, and put the same series of questions to any of the inmates as far as they are able to tell anything, it will be the same in every case.

The representative of the Hongkong Telegraph has spoken to numbers of Chinese of all sorts—coolies, chiefly, as they are the patrons of the morphine diavns, but also to the patrons of the various other narcotics, such as pills, powders, tablets, and liquid preparations, which do not figure so prominently in a mere casual inquiry because their consumption does not necessitate any particular apparatus, such as injections or smoking would need, and such as the poorer class of the colony find it more convenient to get at a public house than to keep for themselves at home—all these matters having been most thoroughly sought out and sifted, a careful investigation shows that the available evidence is all of the same kind. A visit to the diavns at No. 11, Kwai-Wa Lane, for example, is exactly like a visit to No. 2, East Street, which formed the subject of the first article in this series; the information to be got at the two is identical. In East Street is mere repetition, and just the same can be had at the place in New Street, at Shui-Kwan, or in fact almost word for word at any of the diavns. Go into any Chinese house in the Colony, and put the same series of questions to any of the inmates as far as they are able to tell anything, it will be the same in every case.

On my way to Poplar station wondrous scenes of depravity met my distracted gaze. Being innocent and inexperienced in the ways of the great world, I heartily wished myself back in the calmer waters, close to that far-off shore in the sunny Far East, or even in Timbuctoo.

Old men and weather-beaten vagabonds of every class and color crowded the pavements, with the girls and elderly women they had once left behind but had now returned to. And they were, no doubt, very much overcome with emotion and Scotch whisky, for some of them were rolling and shouting one way, others tackling along another, the gentlemen sometimes getting in the centre of the road to raise their fists and have reason, to bestow black-eye upon some passing acquaintance. Every tavern had a number of similar ornaments and advertisements standing or rolling outside, smoking or chewing; while now and then a sweet music of "The Lost Chord" pattern was rendered *pro bono publico* by some ambitious ex-Italian organ-grinder.

On alighting at the rustic station of Poplar, boot-blacks and match-vendors gave me a hearty welcome, and a very interesting picture removed by troubles, however, were by no means at an end, for the cabman turned out to be a regular out-and-out Tartar. I gave him two shillings for my seven minutes' jollity, and then quietly walked into the station. The usual followed me and commenced using some of the most select language, which it is impossible to describe in the columns of a family paper like the *Telegraph*. I refused to give him another cent, and said that upon his station, that his coat seemed to drop from his back as he "shelled it off," and his arms—his "props" and "docks" as he called them—went up mechanically to a very pugilistic attitude, which shocked me out of another "bob." Even now when thinking of that interview—

"I feel my sinews slacken with the fright, And a cold sweat trickles down o'er all my wits, As I were dissolving into water!"

Do not think me a coward! I felt myself disgracefully imposed upon by a vicious and stalwart two-to-one-bar-once character; but concluded that "prudence was the better part of valour," as I had no wish to meet my friends with two black eyes or a broken nose. But when he left—when he had driven his rickety old *whop*, wheeler away in triumph, my pride and my good-nature felt the direct injury, my long suppressed rage burst forth and I should perhaps have gone out to find him, but my train arrived

just in good time, so, at one bound I entered the carriage with such passionate force that nothing could resist it and I knocked an old gentleman's hat into the eyes of an elderly lady whose glasses were shivered into atoms on the floor. She took my card. Such was my departure from Poplar.

On arriving at Division I went in search of lodgings. From room to room I roamed like a footpad. The various landladies of select and comfortably furnished rooms certainly did not approve of my turbulent face and unshorn tropical appearance. Some asked diverse rude questions and all had a mercenary—a decided L.S.D. look imparted on their faces. However, I tried a different locality and, knocking at a door, was answered by a pleasant old lady with "ferret eyes and crackling china," who would have been drowned as a witch in the good times had she not been an acquaintance of Master Hopkins. She showed me the elegant apartments she had to let, and after some palaver I agreed to her terms. Since then my stay in England has by no means improved my health or looks; for about three days after my arrival I went to a grand demonstration in Hyde Park, and returned home with the two much-dreaded black eyes, which I received for telling a man that he had no conscience, and minus a new silk hat, a silver-mounted stick and a pair of gloves. Never shall I forget the manner in which those Cockney natives treated me. After escaping from their rapacious clutches I certainly thought of sending in a bill for damages to the Grand Old Man, who to my mind—I am a strong anti-Home Ruler, seemed to be at the top and bottom of everything.

That was a most comfortable little house in Dalton, but very dull. The rear view was monotonous in the extreme, for I looked over a vast number of backyards, stocked daily with washing and small children. So what with such a *banal perspective* and the numerous street organs, I had quite a lively time of it. At night my rest was always disturbed; for so many cockles solemnly tolled the hour of midnight, a frightful series of wild cries and hisses from the throats of innumerable cats rent the air. Our back-walk seemed to be their favourite rendezvous for marriages and scurrilous, and there they sat, night after night, staring and wallowing worse than a multitude of small babies. I threw boots and other heavier missiles at them, but to no purpose. The police, at that time, had very strict orders that all dogs that were prowling about without muzzles in the street, unaccompanied by their attendants, were to be locked up. Why did they not extend their restrictions to cats and have them all gagged or confined? That would have been a great charity! For these loquacious and quarrelsome animals do more harm to one's mental faculties than all the canine species in Great Britain. I threw boots and other heavier missiles at them, but to no purpose. The police, at that time, had very strict orders that all dogs that were prowling about without muzzles in the street, unaccompanied by their attendants, were to be locked up. Why did they not extend their restrictions to cats and have them all gagged or confined? That would have been a great charity! For these loquacious and quarrelsome animals do more harm to one's mental faculties than all the canine species in Great Britain.

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Commercial treaties with Portugal, Sweden, Holland and Switzerland have been passed by the Spanish Cortes.

Dr. Lappont, physician to the Pope, is quoted as saying that the Supreme Pontiff will live beyond sixty years.

The Spanish Government will prosecute the Mayor of Palsburg for hiding the existence of cholera in that town.

The French have launched a new submarine vessel. The new craft is called *Gulias-Zede*. She was built at Toulon.

According to a colonial paper, "a young scion of the English peerage has just married a well-known Sydney barmaid."

Cholera prevalent in South Africa are continuing to a great extent by the use of camels, instead of horses or mules.

Scorpi's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites is the most valuable remedy for Consumption, Scrofula, General Debility, Wasting Diseases of Children, Chronic Cough, and Bronchitis that has ever been produced. It is very fattening and strengthening. It will ease at once the most violent cough and will give both comfort and strength to the sufferer. It possesses the combined virtues of these popular remedies in its fullest form. Any Chemist can supply it. A. S. Watson & Co. (Limited), agents in Hongkong and China—(Advt.)

THE NEW STEAMSHIP LINE FROM SEATTLE TO THE EAST.

STRAIMERS TO BE BUILT IN ENGLAND.

The Victoria (B.C.) Daily Colonist of July 22nd gives the following particulars regarding the proposed Great Northern line of steamers to be run between Puget Sound and Far Eastern ports, under the auspices of Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co., of Yokohama and London:—

Mr. F. C. David, who has been in St. Paul for the past few weeks making arrangements with President Will, of the Great Northern Railway, for the establishment of a new steamship line between the Sound and Oriental ports, has returned home, having been successful in his efforts. As Mr. David is a Victorian, he has looked after this city's interests inasmuch as he will have Victoria one of the principal ports of call for the steamships. Mr. David says all agreements entered upon so far have been very satisfactory, and the final one, to complete the negotiations, was signed in the presence of Mr. Samuel, head of the firm of Samuel, Samuel & Co., who came from London to St. Paul especially for that purpose. There can, perhaps, be no better idea of the arrangements given than that which Mr. David expressed in an interview which was granted to the *Telegraph* on Tuesday last. It is as follows:—"I have been twice to St. Paul, and, after two months' time, finally succeeded in closing arrangements with Mr. Hill. Our agreement is such that the interests of Seattle merchants have also been consulted, so that they can ship to intermediate points on the railway at the same rates as we can, as it is the terminal Eastern points that we are reaching for. We will run steamships direct from the Orient to Seattle, with a short call by Victoria. In Seattle the firm of Samuel, Samuel & Co. will have their coast office, of which F. C. David & Co. will have charge. All outgoing shipments, such as lumber, fish, etc., will be from this port.

